BLACK DREAMS

SAIKO SCANS

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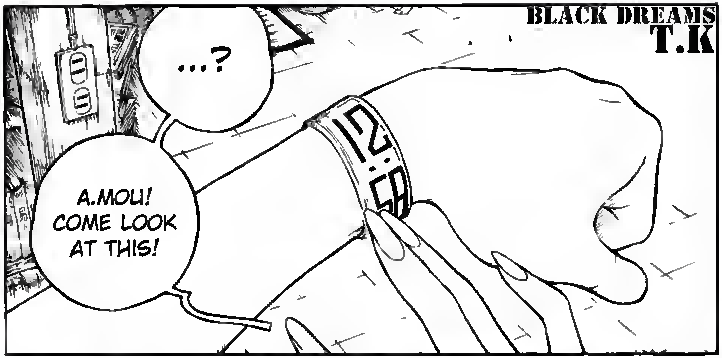
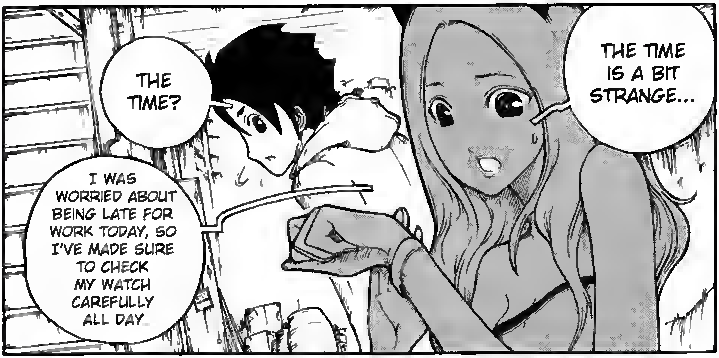
<PREFACE>

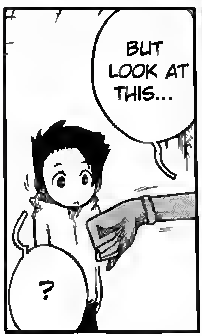
LEGENDS SPEAK OF AN ARTEFACT THAT HAS EXISTED SINCE THE DAWN OF HUMAN HISTORY ITSELF... IT HAS THE POWER TO MAKE ITS USER'S DREAMS COME TRUE.

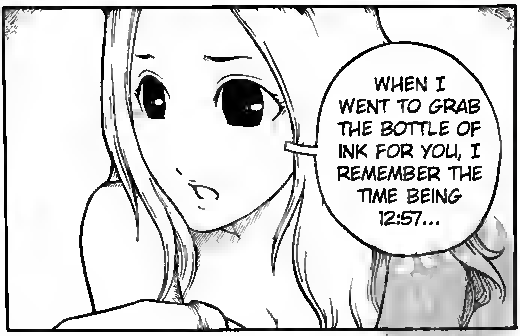
BUT WHEN THESE DREAMS COME TRUE, BLACK NIGHTMARES WILL ALSO SOON FOLLOW.

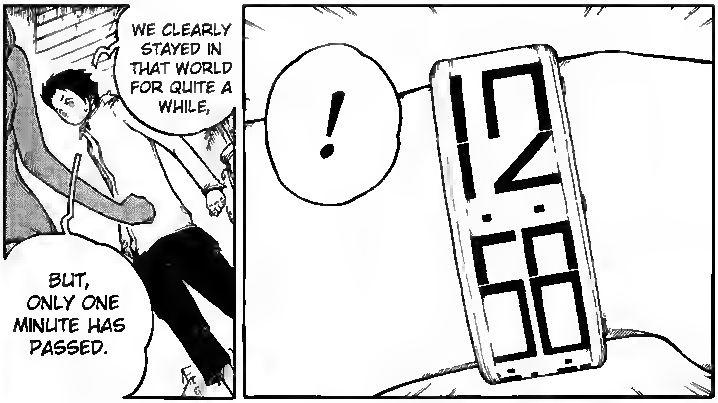
BLACK DREAMS

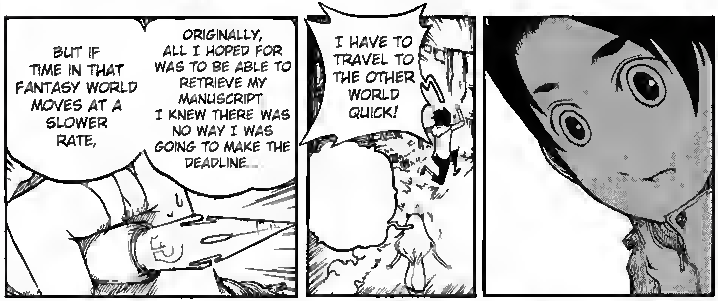

...?
A.MOU! COME LOOK AT THIS!
12:58


THE TIME?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT BEING LATE FOR WORK TODAY, SO I'VE MADE SURE TO CHECK MY WATCH CAREFULLY ALL DAY.
THE TIME IS A BIT STRANGE...


BUT LOOK AT THIS...
?


WHEN I WENT TO GRAB THE BOTTLE OF INK FOR YOU, I REMEMBER THE TIME BEING 12:57...

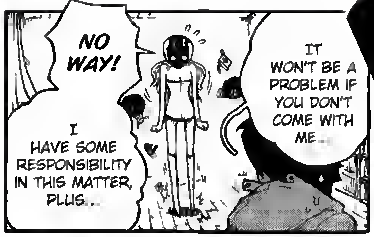

WE CLEARLY STAYED IN THAT WORLD FOR QUITE A WHILE,
BUT, ONLY ONE MINUTE HAS PASSED.
!
12
00

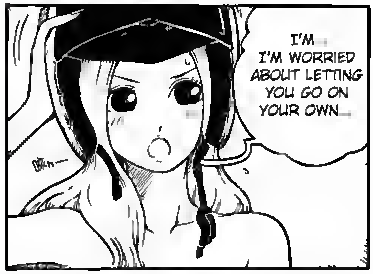

BUT IF TIME IN THAT FANTASY WORLD MOVES AT A SLOWER RATE,
ORIGINALLY, ALL I HOPED FOR WAS TO BE ABLE TO RETRIEVE MY MANUSCRIPT I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO MAKE THE DEADLINE...
I HAVE TO TRAVEL TO THE OTHER WORLD QUICK!

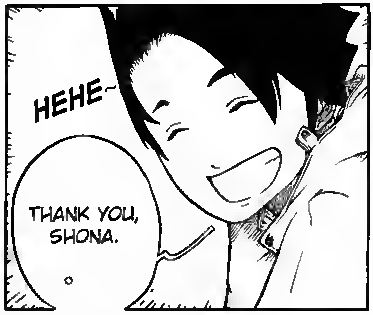
I CAN TAKE BACK MY MANUSCRIPT AND ENTER IT INTO THE COMPETITION, ALL BEFORE THE POST OFFICE CLOSES!
I MAY BE ABLE TO GET EVERYTHING DONE IN TWO HOURS...

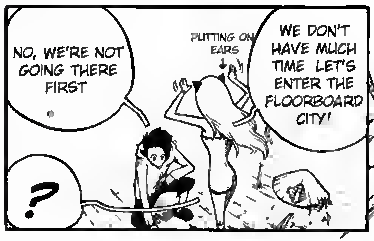
2

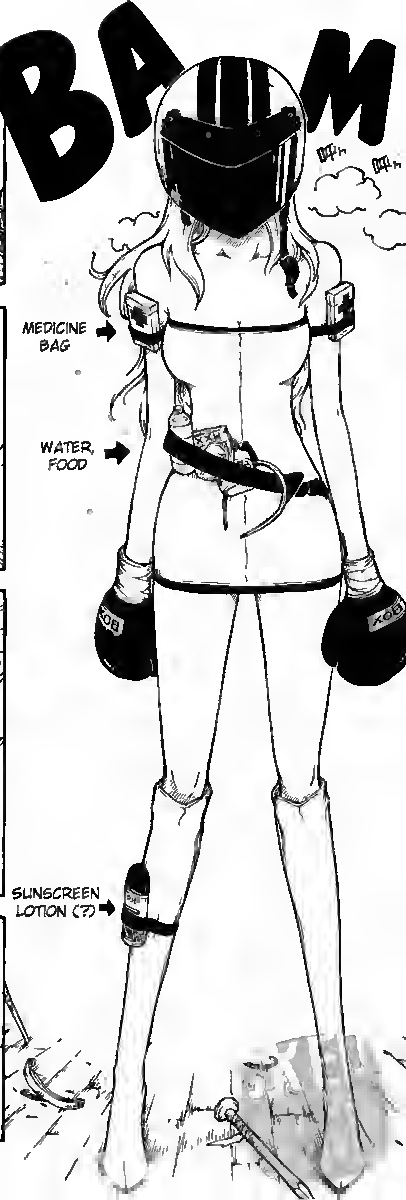
WAR AGAINST THE BLADE KING

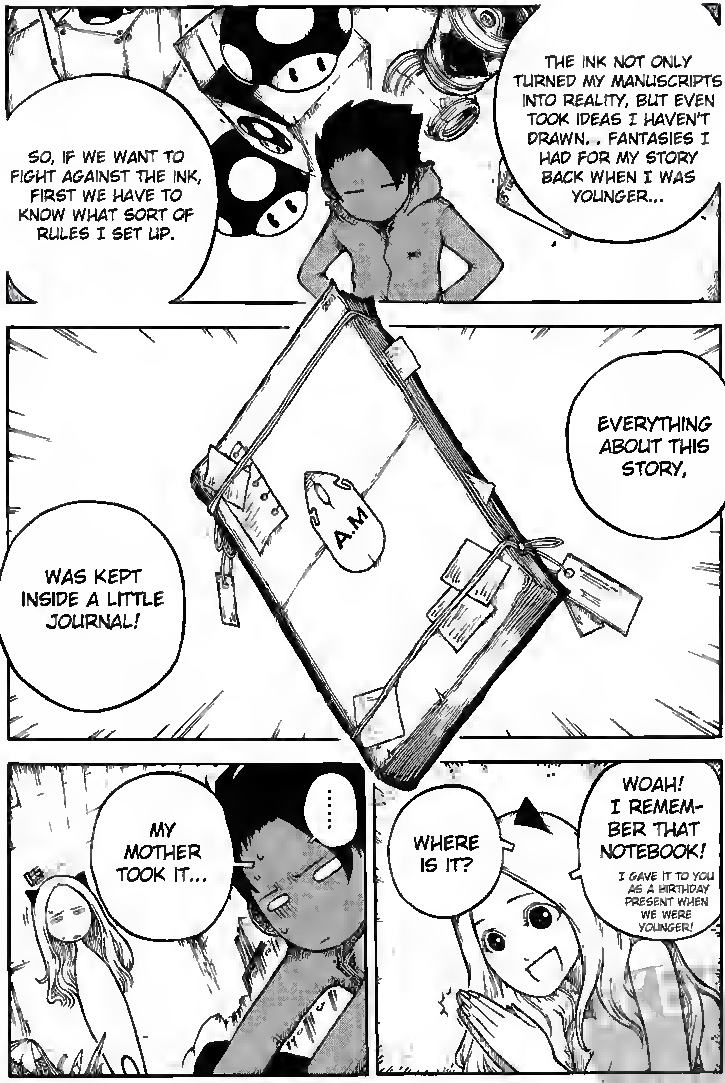

NO WAY!
I HAVE SOME RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER, PLUS...
IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM IF YOU DON'T COME WITH ME...


I'M... I'M WORRIED ABOUT LETTING YOU GO ON YOUR OWN...


HEHE~
THANK YOU, SHONA.


NO, WE'RE NOT GOING THERE FIRST
?
PUTTING ON EARS
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LET'S ENTER THE FLOORBOARD CITY!

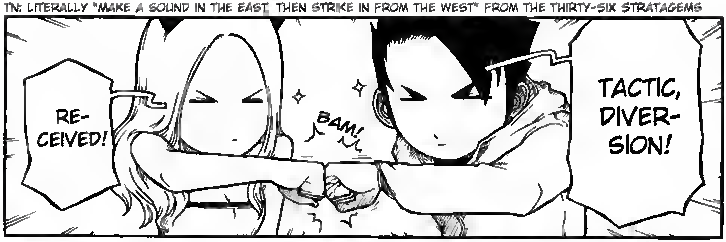

BAM
MEDICINE BAG
WATER, FOOD
SUNSCREEN LOTION (?)


THE INK NOT ONLY TURNED MY MANUSCRIPTS INTO REALITY, BUT EVEN TOOK IDEAS I HAVEN'T DRAWN.. FANTASIES I HAD FOR MY STORY BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...
SO, IF WE WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST THE INK, FIRST WE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF RULES I SET UP.
EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS STORY,
A.M
WAS KEPT INSIDE A LITTLE JOURNAL!
WOAH! I REMEMBER THAT NOTEBOOK!
I GAVE IT TO YOU AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER!
WHERE IS IT?
.....
MY MOTHER TOOK IT...

WAA—!!
哇!
AHHH—
A.MOU'S MOTHER
(OCCUPATION: NOVELIST)
BLESSED ANTIQUARIANS, 3RD FLOOR (LIMOU'S HOUSE)
13:01
SIGH! SHE SHOULD BE WATCHING K-DRAMAS RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
THAT'S WHY I'M COUNTING ON THIS COMPETITION TO CHANGING HER MIND!
YOU KNOW THAT EVER SINCE MY FATHER PASSED AWAY, MOTHER HAS GOTTEN EVEN MORE INSISTENT NOT LETTING ME TOUCH MANHUA. SHE SAYS THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE A LIVING OUT OF IT...
DOES AUNTIE* NOT ALLOW YOU TO DRAW MANHUA?
THE DRAWINGS AND SKETCHBOOK THAT WERE CONFISCATED FROM ME ARE IN THERE!
THAT BLACK DRAWER!
AH! I CAN SEE IT!

* THE TERM "AUNTIE" HERE IS A POLITE WAY TO ADDRESS A WOMAN WHO IS AROUND THE AGE OF ONE'S MOTHER. IT IS, HOWEVER, ALSO FREQUENTLY USED AS A WAY TO ADDRESS THE MOTHER OF ONE'S BOYFRIEND.

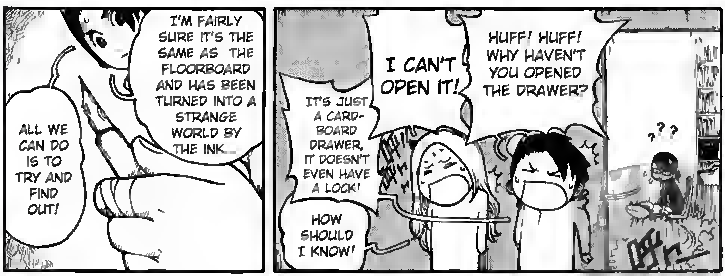
TN: LITERALLY "MAKE A SOUND IN THE EAST, THEN STRIKE IN FROM THE WEST" FROM THE THIRTY-SIX STRATAGEMS



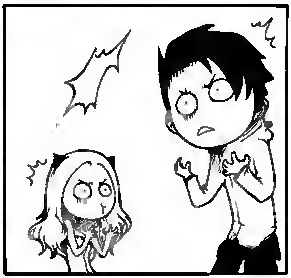
TN: DAE JANG GEUM, ALSO KNOWN AS "JEWEL IN THE PALACE"

TN: I HAVE NO IDEA WHY "GIRL'S GENERATION" WASN'T CENSORED.

WOOOO-OOOAAAAH! GIRL'S GENERATION!!!
DEF! DEF!
DEF!
DON'T KEEP CHANGING THE CHANNEL!
WOOOAAH! XXX JANG GEUM IS BEING RE-BROADCAST!
WHERE? WHERE?
ARE YOU WATCHING K-DRAMAS?! WOAH! IT'S BAE YONG-XXX!
TN: BAE YONG JOON, A SOUTH KOREAN ACTOR AND BUSINESSMAN.
DEF
!

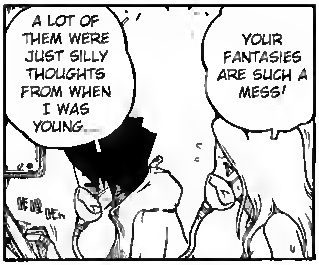

I'M FAIRLY SURE IT'S THE SAME AS THE FLOORBOARD AND HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A STRANGE WORLD BY THE INK.
ALL WE CAN DO IS TO TRY AND FIND OUT!
HUFF! HUFF! WHY HAVEN'T YOU OPENED THE DRAWER?
I CAN'T OPEN IT!
IT'S JUST A CARDBOARD DRAWER, IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A LOCK!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!
???

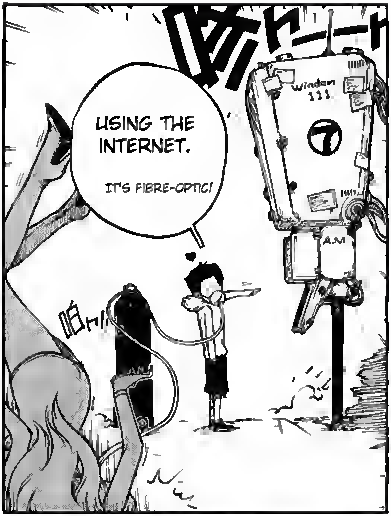
哈哈哈...
WAAA-AAAAH!
AS EX-PECTED!
BAM!
O2
OOPH!!!
BAM——!!

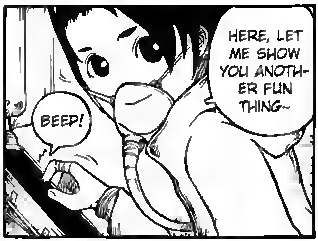


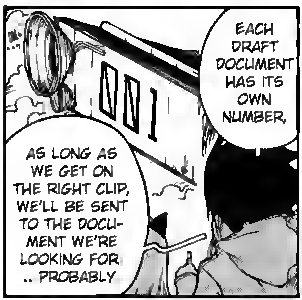
TL NOTE: BASICALLY THEM NOT BEING ABLE TO BREATHE.

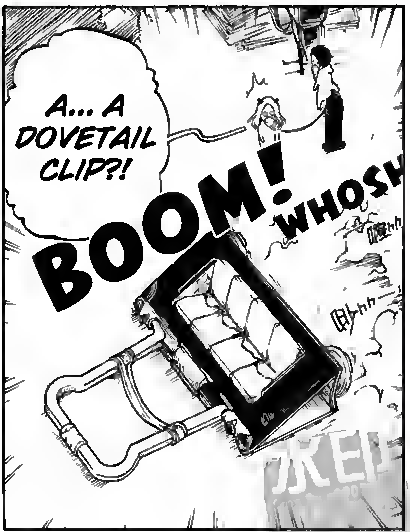
SO SINCE I WAS YOUNG, I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THIS DRAWER TO BE A PLACE WHERE HUMANS END UP SUFFOCATING.
THE NOTEBOOKS AND DRAFTS I SECRETLY DREW ALWAYS ENDED UP BEING CONFISCATED AND PUT HERE,
I JUST REMEMBERED... THIS PLACE DOESN'T HAVE ANY OXYGEN...
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...
BREATHE
O2
BREAT—HE
MY GOD... HAS AUNTIE REALLY CONFISCATED THIS MANY OF YOUR WORKS?
THERE'S NO WAY IT'D BE THAT EXTREME!
HOW ON EARTH ARE WE GOING TO FIND THAT NOTEBOOK...
...WITH THIS PLACE BEING SO HUGE,
SIMPLY REFLECT THE MANY IDEAS I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DRAW OUT, THAT'S ALL.
THESE STACKS OF PAPER

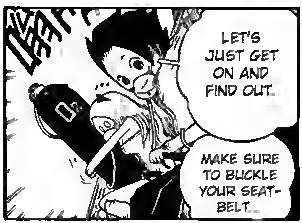

A LOT OF THEM WERE JUST SILLY THOUGHTS FROM WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
YOUR FANTASIES ARE SUCH A MESS!

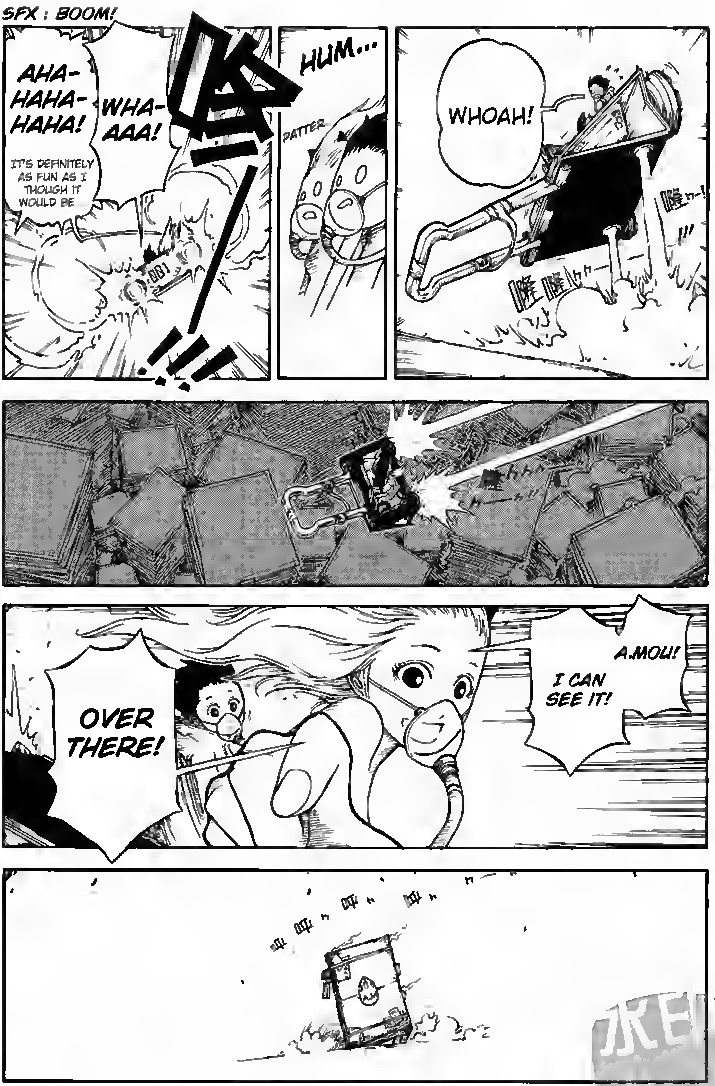

USING THE INTERNET.
IT'S FIBRE-OPTIC!

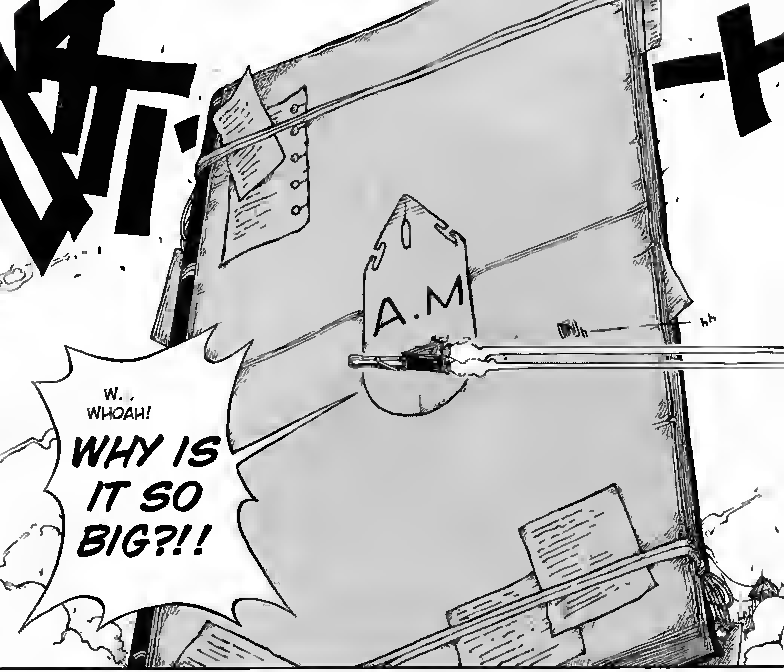

HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU ANOTHER FUN THING~
BEEP!


EACH DRAFT DOCUMENT HAS ITS OWN NUMBER.
AS LONG AS WE GET ON THE RIGHT CLIP, WE'LL BE SENT TO THE DOCUMENT WE'RE LOOKING FOR .. PROBABLY

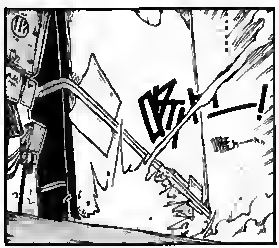

A... A DOVETAIL CLIP?!
BOOM!
WHOSH


LET'S JUST GET ON AND FIND OUT.
MAKE SURE TO BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT.

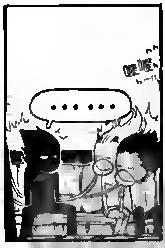

SFX : BOOM!
AHA-HAHA-HAHA!
IT'S DEFINITELY AS FUN AS I THOUGH IT WOULD BE
WHA-AAA!
HUM...
PATTER
WHOAH!
A.MOU!
I CAN SEE IT!
OVER THERE!


A.M
W..
WHOAH!
WHY IS IT SO BIG?!!

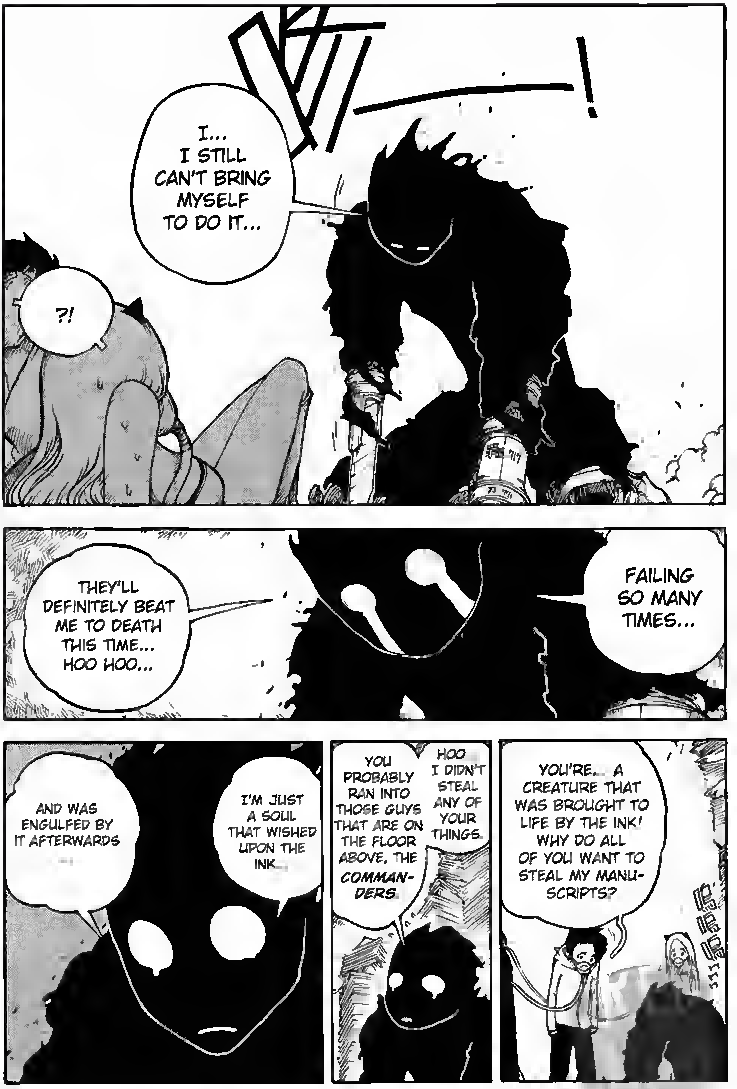
YEAH, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT ISSUE QUITE FREQUENTLY TOO.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO READ THROUGH IT LIKE THIS?
IT MUST HAVE BECOME SO BIG BECAUSE OF HOW IMPORTANT I CONSIDER IT TO BE.



WHO ARE YOU?


.....

ALTHOUGH I'M REALLY HAPPY TO MEET SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO...
IT'S REALLY REGRETFUL...
...
WAAAH!
SORRY!
MAKING SURE NO ONE GETS ANYWHERE NEAR THIS BOOK IS MY JOB!


I... I STILL CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO DO IT...
?!
THEY'LL DEFINITELY BEAT ME TO DEATH THIS TIME... HOO HOO...
FAILING SO MANY TIMES...
AND WAS ENGULFED BY IT AFTERWARDS
I'M JUST A SOUL THAT WISHED UPON THE INK...
YOU PROBABLY RAN INTO THOSE GUYS THAT ARE ON THE FLOOR ABOVE, THE COMMANDERS.
HOO... I DIDN'T STEAL ANY OF YOUR THINGS.
YOU'RE... A CREATURE THAT WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE INK! WHY DO ALL OF YOU WANT TO STEAL MY MANUSCRIPTS?

RUN, QUICKLY!
AS SOON AS SOMEONE APPROACHES, THE INKS MINIONS QUICKLY SURROUND THE PLACE!
QUICK! THE TWO OF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE QUICKLY!
WISH?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ONLY THE INK DIPPER WHO CREATED THIS WORLD...
DEFEAT THE INK?!
ONLY WITH THIS BOOK IN MY POSSESSION WILL I BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE INK...
NO, I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THIS BOOK.
THAT'S ME!

I'VE BEEN TRAPPED HERE FOR OVER A 1000 YEARS HAVING THE UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THAT BOTTLE OF INK AGAIN...
WOULD... WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOUCHED IT?
跌坐
SFX : CRACK!
唰——!

I'M SO HAPPY, I COULD DIE!
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T COMPLETELY RELEASED ME FROM THE CURSE, FINALLY BEING ABLE TO BREAK FREE OF THAT BLACK INK'S HORRIBLE EMBRACE...
PROHIBITED THOUGHT VALLEY GUARD
KNIFE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT DIVISION
UGH... THERE'S GOT TO BE AN EXPLANATION FOR WHY THIS JOURNAL IS SO BIG..
A.MOU!
JUST MAKE IT QUICK!
FRIENDS, WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING TO DO ISN'T IMPORTANT...
I'VE GOT IT!

HA!
TAP...
WAS IT JUST THAT SIMPLE?
I THOUGHT, WHAT IF, WHENEVER ANYONE ASIDE FROM ME TOUCHED THE JOURNAL, IT'D GROW TO THE SIZE OF A MOUNTAIN AND BE TOO LARGE FOR ANYONE TO STEAL.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WANTED A WAY OF PREVENTING MY JOURNAL FROM EVER BEING TAKEN AGAIN.
PROMISE ME,
YOU'LL GIVE THEM A PAINFUL DEATH, OKAY?!
THAT INK DESTROYED MY HOME AND KILLED MY FAMILY...
GET GOING AS SOON AS YOU'VE GRABBED WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR! I'LL BUY YOU SOME TIME!

YOUR DAUGHTER IS ON HER WAY TO YOUR SIDE
FAT-HER, MOT-HER,
WHAT...?!
GRAB!
IF YOU WANT REVENGE,
YOU-THE TWO OF YOU!
YOU SHOULD TAKE IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!
A-MOU'S HOU-SE

HUFF, HUFF, HUFF...
MUM, QUICK, LOOK! TOM CRUISE IS TAKING HIS PANTS OFF!
HAHAHA-HAHA!
AHAHA!